

Dear Parents

Firstly thank you for the tremendous support you have given to our Red Nose Day Appeal this year. We are confident that the final total will be in excess of **£700** once all the sponsor money is in and I have encouraged the children to watch some of the Red Nose Day coverage on Friday so that they can get a sense of where their money is going to.

It would be really helpful if all the sponsorship money could be in early next week – thank you.



There was further good news this week; Mrs Walker-Green had her baby on Tuesday afternoon. Lucy Green weighed in at 8lb 6oz and everyone is doing well – I understand they were all back home by Wednesday evening.

Congratulations to all and we look forward to seeing Libby come in to show off her big sister sometime soon.

## Free School Meals

This afternoon the children have enjoyed the Change for Life Magic Show and I trust that they have learned something new about ways in which they can keep themselves fit and healthy as they grow.

The show's arrival has prompted me to remind those parents who qualify for Free School Meals to claim. At The Bramptons we have a very low up take of Free School Meals even though we are aware of families that have a legitimate claim. This is a concern to me because not only are the children missing out on the food but there are a number of other funding streams and resources that we can tap into to benefit the children if Free School Meals are claimed.

The County Council website says that you are entitled to claim if:

You can get free school meals for your child if you or your partner gets either:

### Income Support

- Income based Job Seekers Allowance
- Child Tax Credit only (with a family income of less than £16,190 as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs)
- National Asylum Seekers Support
- Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit
- Employments and Support Allowance - Income Related only

I appreciate that some children prefer the packed lunches they get from home but I would emphasise that your child can benefit from you claiming free

meals even if you wish to continue providing a packed lunch yourself. I would therefore strongly encourage parents to apply if you fit the criteria above. If you do apply then the school will be happy to provide a suitable lunch box so that your child's food is packaged in exactly the same way as everyone else's

Free School Meals will become an easier issue when we are able to provide hot dinners again. It is a frustration to us that the County Council have decided that we are to be one of the last schools to get hot dinner provision reinstated into the school but it is on its way and should start in September 2012, assuming that Government don't change their minds on this one!

### **INSET Day Tomorrow**

As you know, school is closed to children tomorrow as we are having an INSET day. I am aware that some parents are unsure as to why we are having this day in the middle of term – the answer is that we are going up to The Education Show in Birmingham. This is an excellent opportunity for the staff to listen to some of the leading thinkers in education at no cost and to look at all the latest resources.

This will be a one off – next year the INSET days have been set at county level and should be followed by all county controlled schools.